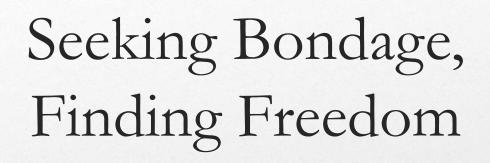


"I will arise and go to my father..."

- Luke 15:18





3rd Sunday of the Holy Great Fast

Introduction

• "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage" (Gal. 5:1)



In the Father's House

- 1. There were firm boundaries
- 2. All his needs were provided for
- 3. Respected his freedom to choose
- "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live..." (Deut. 30:19)
- "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (Jam. 4:8)





1. No restrictions

- The restrictions in his father's house were for his protection
- "Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction." (Ps. 119:92)
- 2. Promise of pleasure and happiness
 - "A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, but to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet." (Prov. 27:7)



Outside the Father's House

3. Conditional Acceptance

- Friends of the world are interested in your possessions, but friends of God are interested in you.
- "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved." (2 Cor. 12:15)





4. Humiliation

• 'The longer we stay in hell, the more we become attached to it.' (CS Lewis)

5. Isolation

- "...and no one gave him anything." (Lk. 15: 16)
- Anything that leads you to isolation or to keep you from the fellowship of the believers (the church) is from the enemy.





- 1. Forgiveness/Compassion
- 2. Restoration
- 3. Joy
 - The joy of the father
 - The joy of the community





Conclusion

Outside the Father's house

- No restrictions
- Promise of Pleasure and happiness
- Conditional Acceptance
- Humiliation
- Isolation

Inside the Father's house

- There were firm boundaries
- All his needs were provided for
- Respect his freedom to choose
- Forgiveness/Compassion
- Restoration
- Joy

To live in bondage or freedom is now a choice?

